

THE STROBE

FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER

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Please, won't you be my neighbor?

FSC works to improve community relations

by Shawn Robinson
Strobe staff

In mid-December, Fitchburg State College President Vincent Mara called for a task force that would help the college to better understand and interact with its surrounding neighborhoods. President Mara is looking for the "Neighborhood Concerns and Image Task Force", chaired by Dr. Ratto, V.P. of Academic Affairs, to present him with a comprehensive plan to improve the relations.

The task force is comprised of three committees that are charged with assessing both the good and the bad aspects of the campus/community relations.

The first committee is the Community Relations Committee chaired by Professor Hetzel of the Education Dept. This committee is responsible for attending neighborhood-related meetings such as a Ward 5-B meeting. This meeting involves community members from the immediate surrounding

area, which includes many faculty members. By listening and becoming involved with these neighborhood meetings, the college hopes to be able to work with the neighborhood in all aspects towards building better relations.

The second committee is the Public Relations Committee chaired by Michael Shanley, Director of Information at Fitchburg State. This committee will poll various target audiences on how they view the college both now and before they were a member of the college. Here, the committee hopes to better understand the image of the college.

The third committee is the Internal Relations Committee chaired by Cynthia Melcher, Director of Alumni. This committee will look at what the college can do internally to improve its credibility on a social, academic, and cultural level. One concern is the college's party image. According to Anne Coyne, Asst. V.P. of Academic Affairs, if there appears to be too many Thurs-



Neighborhood youths play a pick-up game of basketball at the court on North Street.

Photo by Tim Brooks

day night parties, then perhaps more Friday classes should be scheduled in hopes of deterring the behavior. School sponsored social events such as the "Freeloader Bus" will be examined. The impact of a

recreation center will also be examined.

The committees will meet several more times before final recommendations are made in October. These final recommendations will

be presented to President Mara by a new committee formed by the original committees' chairpersons.

Coyne stressed that this is not an issue of policing the students, but rather a college wide evaluation.



by Patrick Horrigan
Staff writer

The Student Government Association is bankrupt! A popular rumor and nothing more. The reason for this rumor is that the SGA copier has been inoperable for about three weeks. Popular belief was that SGA could not afford to fix their copier, which is shared by several

campus clubs.

"There is no money budgeted for copier repairs," said Phil Asselin, Treasurer for SGA. According to SGA Office Manager, Robin Brisson, money for such repairs, "should come from profits collected from clubs using the copier." Brisson also said, "Unfortunately fraternities and sororities are difficult to collect money from.

They are non-funded clubs and can't be forced to pay their bills."

Asselin did say that he could find money in other areas to pay for the probable \$300.00 repair bill. "There have been other more important obligations-scholarships, the SGA awards dinner... SGA has more obligations than any other club. We had to pay for more things than expected."

And the winner is... 16th Annual Spring Convocation Awards

The 16th Annual Spring Honors Convocation will be held on Thursday, April 22, 1993, at 2:00 pm in Weston Auditorium. Spring Convocation honors those students who merit recognition for various achievements. Student recipients will be presented a departmental award by the departmental chairperson or an award by the SGA. Seniors, award recipients, faculty, and members of the platform party

will formally process to Weston Auditorium.

All members of the Fitchburg State College community, parents, relatives, and friends are invited to attend the ceremony and the reception which follows.

The 12:30 class will be held. Classes will be suspended from 1:30 until 4:30, with classes resuming at 5 p.m. Evening classes will be held.

From the Editor:

The Strobe is arriving a day late due to the long weekend and the beautiful weather that came with it. Your patience is appreciated.

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The Health Fair was held in G-Lobby to educate students about all things health.

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Rod Murphy was one of the thirteen students who travelled with Habitat to Pittsburgh during Spring Break.

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The FSC track team is off to a good start.

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The Four Year Myth: Graduation takes longer

by John Williams
CPS

The hard realities of rising tuition, closed classes and the increasing number of non-traditional students attending colleges or universities are changing perceptions that most students earn their undergraduate degrees in four years.

School officials recognize that because of financial and personal pressures, many students are taking longer to get their degrees, not quite making the traditional four-year degree a dinosaur, but at least putting it on the endangered species list.

In some cases, university systems are trying to graduate students in less than four years to make room for new students who are competing for fewer classes.

"Many students have to take less courses and have to work. It's not such a bad thing," said John Duff, president of Columbia College in Chicago. "Nobody would raise their eyebrows about going to graduate school to get a doctorate in eight years. Part of our culture is that there is some kind of stigma if you don't graduate in four years."

A major factor in the increased

time it takes to earn a four-year degree is the fact that federal loan and grant money is being reduced, forcing students to work part time or full time to help finance their education. In some cases students take an occasional semester off to make money for tuition.

The American Council on Education estimates that 40 percent of students enrolled in two- and four-year institutions are non-traditional students, meaning they are older students and may work full or part time.

"There are significant numbers of small liberal arts institutions that take in students mostly out of high school and graduate in four years. But their numbers have not grown," spokesman David Merkowitz said. "The growth (in enrollment) is in state colleges and community colleges, which are oriented toward non-traditional students."

Many students go to school part time, which almost automatically puts them in the position of taking more time to get their diploma. The Chronicle of Higher Education Almanac estimates that in 1993, 15.3 million students are attending college, and 6.4 million are going part time. Those numbers are expected to increase

through the turn of the century.

Other students choose to graduate in a shorter time. Under a mandate from the state Legislature in 1992, a Virginia council studied, and then implemented, a program that allows students in the public university system to graduate in three years. State officials, faced with the prospect of an additional 65,000 students by the year 2000, want to graduate as many students as possible to make room for the crunch.

In addition to finishing early, students can expect to save about \$10,000 in tuition and living costs.

Only one in three undergraduate students in Virginia's public university system graduates within four years, said Mike McDowell, a spokesman with Virginia's State Council of Higher Education. In the 1991 fall term, there were 165,000 students enrolled in the state's 15 four-year institutions. Figures for the fall 1992 terms weren't available.

McDowell said the council conducted a study and found that students attending residential universities in rural areas of the state tended to graduate within four years. Those students who went to schools in urban areas tended to be commuters who may take time off from school to work and pay for

tuition. According to McDowell, some students are taking up to seven years to earn undergraduate degrees.

McDowell said students who opt for the three-year plan get credit for high scores on advanced placement tests taken during high school. If they pass the tests, it's determined they have achieved a proficiency in the subject matter and don't have to take it in college.

"We want schools to eliminate obstacles for those who want to go this way," he said. "For some students, this is very much a cultural thing that they don't want to graduate in three years. But for others, they would rather save the \$10,000 and get out earlier or go on to graduate school."

Duff, the president of Columbia College, said that the school's curriculum is designed for most students to graduate in five years and one semester, if they go full time. The college, which primarily offers degrees in the arts, considers itself non-traditional. It has open enrollment, tuition is \$6,500 a year and most of its undergraduates are first-generation college students.

There were 430 students who did not return for the fall 1992 term, Duff said. They all had at least a "B" average and owed no

money to the school. The school sent out letters to them to find out why they didn't return, and Duff said most of them said they had to take the term off to earn money.

However, many schools - especially small liberal arts institutions - encourage students to graduate in the traditional four-year period.

Owen Sammelson, vice president for administration at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., said students should look at the income they would be losing by extending their schooling beyond four years.

"Given what a student is paying for college, why should an undergraduate degree be more than four years?" Sammelson said. "They should be able to do it in four years."

But he said that since Gustavus Adolphus is primarily a residential college in a small town, there are few opportunities for students to work off campus.

"That's not likely to change. We're graduating 76 to 80 percent of our students in four years," he said. "We're saying to students that if you are looking at our kind of school, that extra year of school may make quite a difference in employment."

Changes proposed to Student Handbook

by Shawn Robinson
Strobe staff

The All College Committee is working on making some important changes in the Student Code of Conduct section of next year's student handbook. The deadline for these changes is May 15.

On March 31, an ACC subcommittee voted yes to seven new items proposed for the handbook. This month the ACC will cast its vote on each new item and then forward the proposals to President Mara who has the final say on each item.

According to Anne Coyne, Asst. V.P. of Academic Affairs, many of the items reflect national trends in behavior and policy. Coyne says that FSC needs to be able to look at these trends and address them. She feels that the changes would be proactive instead of reactive, better preparing the college for any potential situations.

The following is a list of the proposed changes and some arguments:

Proposal: Gambling is not permitted on-campus or in campus buildings.
Argument: Reflects state law.

Proposal: Solicitation is not permitted on-campus or in campus buildings.
Argument: Provides for enforcement of solicitation policy.

Proposal: Unauthorized posting and/or distribution of flyers, bulletins or posters on-campus or in campus buildings.
Argument: Provides for enforcement of poster policy.

Proposal: Separate sexual assault from general physical assault: Sexual assault, sexual harassment of another person, verbal abuses or threats of injury or harm to another person or any action which may subject a person to physical or mental injury.
Argument: Reflects the serious and sensitive issue of violations of a sexual nature.

Proposal: Unauthorized accessing of computer files or records.
Argument: Reflects a trend in violations.

Proposal: Unauthorized use of the College name, insignia, or symbols.
Arguments: Provides for enforcement against unauthorized use of the college name.

Proposal: Loss of recognition for a recognized student organization. During this time, the organization may not associate itself with the College by using the College name, facilities, and/or other rights and privileges of recognized student organizations.
Argument: Provides for a possible sanction for recognized student organizations in violation of college policy.

Officials predict big problems with student Pell Grants

by Deborah Kane Mitchell
CPS

Major changes in the federal Pell Grant program may cost hundreds of thousands of students their grants, forcing them to leave college or shoulder more debt.

"This going to affect students already in the worst situations," said Laurent Ross, a research associate with the American Council on Education. "Many of these students will have to borrow more money or drop out of school."

Some of the nation's neediest students, already hurt by a Pell Grant cut earlier this year, now face further reductions as a result of revisions to federal student financial aid programs.

About 26 percent, or 1.2 million students, who receive Pell Grant awards will lose them entirely or have the grants cut by more than \$100, according to Ross.

Although last year's changes in the Higher Education Act affect all financial assistance programs, the new laws, which are in effect for the 1993-94 academic year, come down hardest on certain groups of undergraduate students who receive Pell Grants.

"It's a disaster," Ross said. "Students who used to get the Pell Grants are finding the grants reduced drastically or cut out entirely - and these are the students you want to get the grants. These are the poorest of the poor."

The Pell Grant program was designed to help financially needy undergraduate students meet the costs of their education by providing them with direct financial assistance. The awards are calculated using a formula that deter-

mines how much income students and their families can afford to contribute to education.

Ross said the problem with the new laws can be traced to changes in that needs-analysis formula. The students most at risk of losing their grants or having them reduced fall into two categories: students who are single and independent (they don't rely on their parents or other family members for income), and students who are dependent on their families' income and work part time.

"Those students are hurt by the new formula," said Lenthon Clark, director of the Financial Aid Office at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. "Anytime you have changes in methodologies, you're going to have winners and losers. Those students are the losers in this go-round."

Of the 14,500 students attending the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, about 19 percent - or 2,800 students - have received Pell Grant awards.

Clark said he hasn't seen a significant change yet in the number of students receiving the awards or the amount of the awards, but added "it's still too early in the processing system to tell." Most students are in the process now of applying for Pell grants for the 1993-94 academic year.

Nationwide, the effect of the new law is expected to be dramatic. Of the approximately 4.5 million college students who are expected to receive Pell Grants in the 1993-94 academic year, about 25 percent will be classified as single independents and about 13 percent will be classified as de-

pendent students who work.

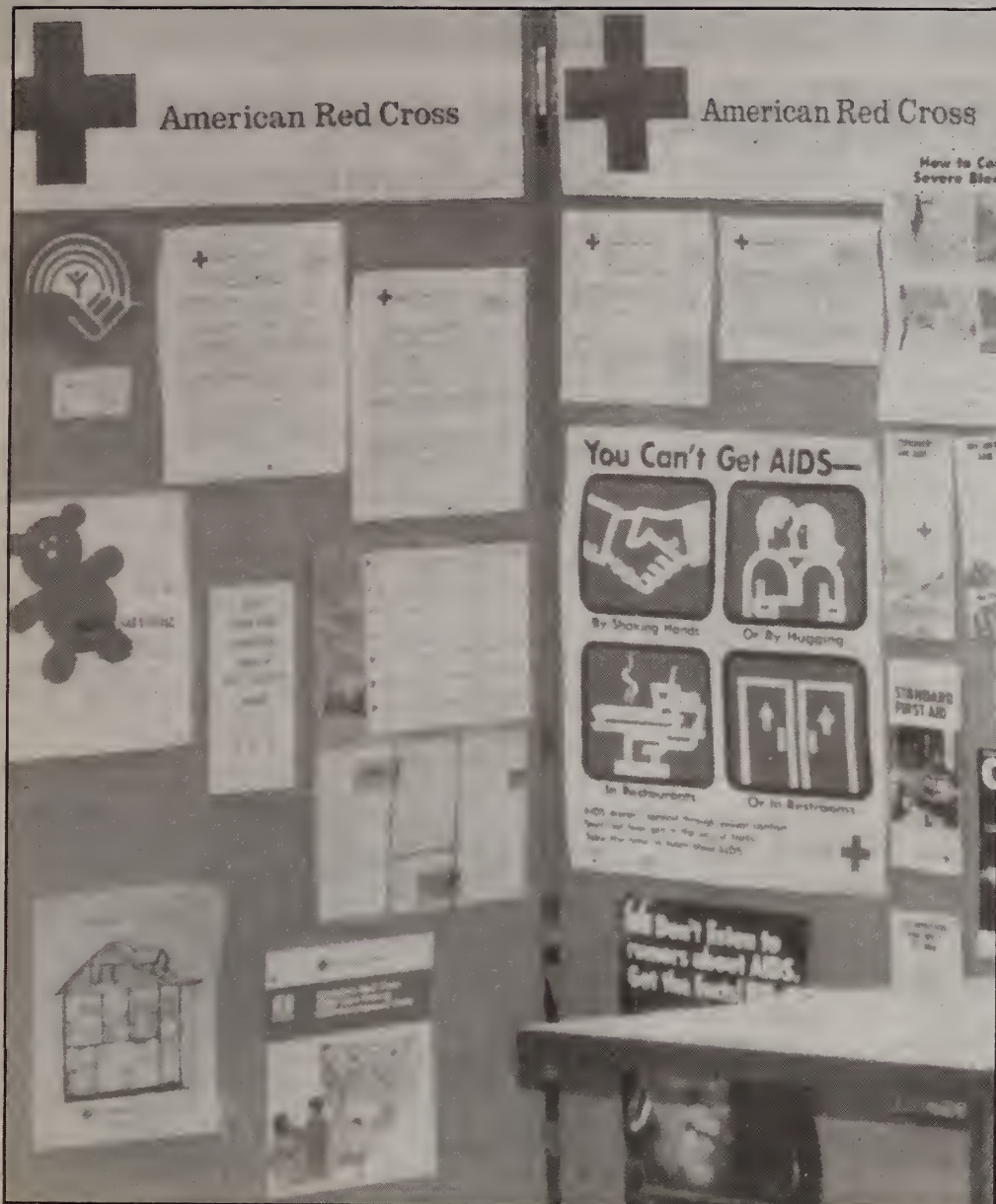
"It's very troubling," said Dallas Martin, president of the National Association of Financial Aid Administrators. "Although their circumstances haven't changed at all, many of these students will find themselves with no grants next year. These students are taking a bit hit and it's very unfair."

The grant cuts are rooted in a bill that was signed into law by President Bush in July 1992. About every five years, the Higher Education Act of 1965 is reviewed and amendments are made into it. In 1992, the amendments targeted, among other things, the definition of dependency and the old needs-analysis system.

The new law makes it more difficult for a student to be classified as an independent. A report released by the Congressional Budget Office estimates that 300,000 students who were once considered independents will now be reclassified as dependents. Many of those students will lose their Pell awards or have them reduced.

The law also changed the needs-analysis system. In the past, two different needs-analysis formulas were used to figure out how much money students needed for education. One formula was used to calculate Pell Grant awards and the other to calculate all other forms of federal financial aid. The two systems were criticized by confused parents applying for financial aid for their children's education, so

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A Health Fair sponsored by the Nursing Department and Health Services was held recently in G-Lobby. Students who perused the various exhibits were able to learn about everything from AIDS to car safety to coping with a learning disability.

Earth Day plans for 1993

CPS

It's Earth Day again on U.S. campuses.

On April 22, one month after spring begins, millions of college students are honoring the environment with a coast-to-coast celebration that includes festivals, concerts, parades and plays that pay homage to Mother Earth.

This year's theme, "Honoring Indigenous People," will celebrate all cultures, ancient and modern, said Dawn Matthews, communications manager of the New Hampshire-based Earth Day USA headquarters.

One of the most popular Earth Day events is the "All Species Parades," comprised of people dressed up as every species imaginable. They will also be garbed to represent threats to the species, Matthews said.

"The parades were originated in New Mexico, and now they are all over the country," said Matthews, noting that the celebrations attract not just college students, but parents, grandparents and little children.

The marching pageant tells a story, explained Matthews. The first section is called the "Disappearing Habitat," made up of people dressed as rain forest trees and plant life. The "Endangered Species" section includes people dressed as spotted owls and eagles. In the "Threats and Dangers" section, people dress like chainsaws, ozone holes or bulldozers.

"But it ends with a 'Hope' section," Matthews said. "That's made up of blue waters and healthy trees and stuff like that."

Solar-powered concerts will highlight this year's Earth Day

festivities.

Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney, taking time out from his New World concert tour, scheduled his Earth Day Concert at the Hollywood Bowl in California on April 16. McCartney's last performance at the Hollywood Bowl took place 20 years ago.

Environmentalists from groups such as Greenpeace lectured or took part in panel discussions on campuses throughout the country.

Mark DuBois, co-founder of Earth Day, is a featured speaker in a week-long event at Occidental College in Los Angeles. One of the panel discussions is on "Environmental Discrimination," and focuses on how people in poverty often have toxic waste dumps near their residences.

The University of Massachusetts in Boston is sponsoring a "River Awareness Tour" that will take students down the Charles River to an Earth Day gathering on its banks on April 24.

Organizers for Earth Day at various Boston-area colleges said they are hoping to encourage students to celebrate Earth Day all year long.

"April is iffy for weather in the Northeast, so we want to have events all year," said Mareba Jos, director of Earth Day activities in the Boston area.

Earth Day had its beginnings in Wisconsin in 1970 when U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson, a Democrat, declared April 22 a day to honor the environment. Defending the environment became a cause picked up by many college-age anti-war demonstrators, Matthews said.

Pell Grants ...continued from page 2

Congress attempted to revise the system. Under the new law, there is only one needs-analysis formula.

"The new needs-analysis formula is the crux of this problem," said Ross of the American Council on Education.

The education group cited as an example of the problem the case of a 27-year-old community college student in Southern California, referred to only as "Douglas," when it presented its arguments to Congress recently. Douglas represents single independent students whose Pell grant awards will be cut significantly under the new policy, the council said.

Douglas makes less than \$9,000 a year. Under the old system, when administrators calculated the amount of money he could contribute to his education, they gave him credit for federal and state taxes, plus an "income protection allowance" of \$6,600 of Douglas's earnings could not be touched or added into the equation. Douglas's Pell Grant award under the old system was \$1,611 per year.

But under the new system, Douglas only gets an offset of \$3,000. His Pell Grant award will now be only \$400 for the 1993-94 academic year. "Douglas has a choice," Ross said. "He can borrow more money and go further into debt or he can stop going to school. Douglas and other students like him - the poor, the

minorities - they've gotten screwed by our society all along and now they're getting shafted again."

The new law comes on the heels of another cut in the Pell Grant program. Students who had been receiving maximum awards of \$2,400 were forced to make do with less money when, earlier this year, huge deficits in the program forced the Department of Education to reduce funding and cap top grants at \$2,300 per qualified student. Although Congress has authorized \$3,700 as the maximum funding for the Pell Grant program, a shortfall of more than \$2 billion has prevented higher awards.

At the time of the cuts, Education Secretary Richard Riley admitted that "the Pell Grant system is in very bad shape economically" and asked Congress for \$2 billion as part of President Clinton's economic stimulus package, so the program could continue operating at its current level.

But the main problem is the needs-analysis formula, Ross said.

The American Council on Education objected to changes in the needs-analysis formula when Congress was debating the amendments last year. The House had passed an original draft, and the Senate came up with its own formula. Congress thrashed it out and agreed on the revised formula.

"We knew about the changes in the formula," Ross said. "But we thought Congress had agreed on a

methodology and the problem had been solved. Then Congress went into committee and cooked up this new needs-analysis formula. It's the worst of both worlds."

The council still hopes to change the system. Ross said council officials recently presented their own technical amendments package to Congress. The package adds a bonus to the Pell Grant awards for students falling into the two hardest-hit categories, which brings up the offset to \$5,500.

"The \$5,500 is a compromise," said Ross. "We'd like it to be \$6,600 but we know we're not going to get that. This is the political reality now and we're going to try and sell it and see if we can get it through."

The council's package is due to be reviewed in mid-April. Until then, Ross hopes students will learn of the changes and write letters to Congress. Groups such as the United States Student Association are working to inform student associations and governments at colleges and universities across the country.

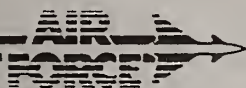
"We're urging our members to contact congressional offices now," said Pronita Gupta, the association's legislative director. "We're letting them know what's happening and they're responding. Students want action on this immediately. We will not accept this kind of discrimination."

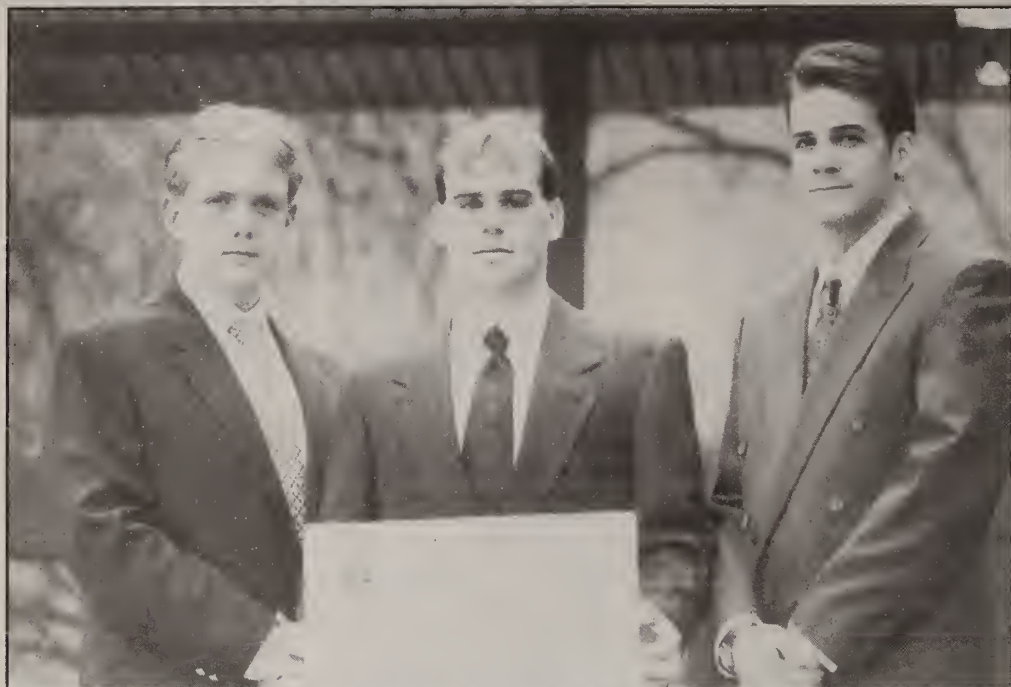
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Students from the ABC recently lent their talents to sprucing up the Commuters Cafe and the pub

ABC repairs Commuters Cafe and Pub

by Derek Valcourt
Strobe staff

FSC is back to its ABCs since that organization, Associate Builders and Contractors, has been working toward the betterment of the college.

On Tuesday April 14, ABC repaired over 30 tables and 100 chairs in the Hammond Building's Pub and Commuter Cafeteria using such simple equipment as wrenches, screwdrivers, and spare parts. The project was completed by six students and lasted a little over an hour.

Work in the Pub began at the suggestion of one of the organization's Vice-Presidents, Dave Jurewicz. The idea was pursued when ABC President Craig Morris ripped his pants on a protruding screw from one of the Pub's chairs.

According to Morris, ABC Treasurer Rich Walsh "was really the one who got the ball rolling" by talking to people to

see if the group could do some repair work on the furniture in the two rooms.

"We just wanted to help out on campus," said Walsh, a junior and President-elect for ABC next semester. "We tightened the screws on every chair, and we checked to make sure all the tables were balanced."

"I thought it would be tedious," said Morris. "It's turned out to be a lot of fun."

The project cost the school no money since all involved were doing straight volunteer work, and ABC spent nothing more than a little time and effort.

But this repair work is not all that ABC gives back to FSC. They recently raffled off a pair of Celtics tickets in order to raise money which was donated to two different organizations.

The first was a check of half of the raised sum to Handi Kids, a disability facility sponsored by the Mass Chapter of ABC. The check was presented to the President of the Mass Chapter of ABC by FSC's chapter president at a

dinner banquet on April 15. The other half of the raffle money was given to Disability Services here at FSC.

ABC also has a new office in the Conlon Arts building. According to Morris, the office was "in shambles" when they moved in, but now it's in good working condition and serves as a productive office where students can look at construction and builder's magazines.

ABC has dinner meetings once a month with the Burlington based District Seven ABC where they can meet and talk to several of the areas non-union contractors. This opportunity to mingle with some of the field's professionals and potential employers is how ABC can help its members find a job.

During its biweekly meetings, the group talks about upcoming events and what is available to students as ABC members.

This year the group has had three successful tours of construction sites, activities which Morris hopes gets people interested in ABC.

Photo by Eric Metzner

Move over Superman, here's Bombman!

by Kim Kahedejian
Staff writer

You've heard of Superman. You've seen Batman. Now meet Bombman. Direct from FSC, he lurks the campus in search of those who have a sad or tire-worn face.

His name is Dale Robertson, but he prefers the nickname "Robby". However, he has often been referred to as "Bombman" because he was the person to discover the pipebomb on campus in August.

He found the bomb when he was warned by one of his co-workers not to step on the dog excrement. Hereplied jokingly, "Don't touch that pipebomb." It was actually a live pipebomb

tion.

His positive attitude has been rubbing off all over campus for the last three years. When he started working at FSC, he was told not to say "hi" to "the girls" because they would "turn him in."

That's not what he is all about. He admits he has a big mouth, but said that it is used in a positive way. He likes to talk, laugh, and have fun. "I've never known any other way," he said.

But his arrival at Fitchburg was not the beginning of his career entertaining people. He graduated from Groton High School in '75 not only with honors, but with the superlatives of "class clown" and "most talkative".

Although he said he never



Dale Robertson

which was later disarmed by Fitchburg police.

Robertson's duties at FSC include landscaping and construction as well as other tasks which he performs under the title of groundskeeper. He said he is a workaholic who gets bored quickly if he is not doing something.

Over the years Robertson has taken on some personal responsibilities on campus: he makes people smile. His smile is recognizable from a mile away. No matter how bad a person's day has gone, he seems to give them that lift that they need.

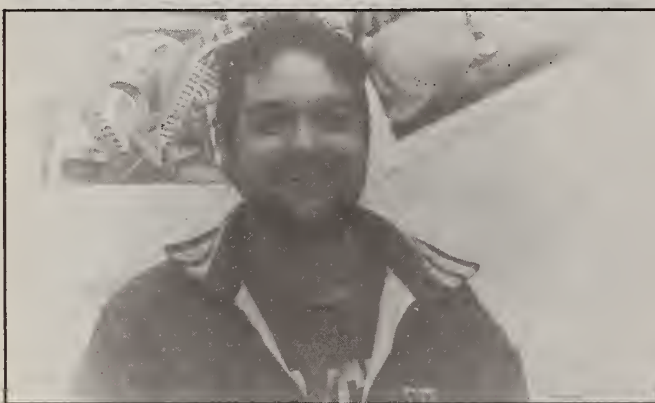
"I enjoy making people smile," said Robertson, whose smile never seems to take a vaca-

went to classes, he does a good job at getting students at FSC to attend classes regularly. He has been known to talk to students who were on their way home, intent on skipping classes. When he is through lecturing them, however, they turn around and head back to their class.

What does he prize most? A beautiful 16 year-old daughter, Jessica, is first on the list. He also enjoys his talents as an artist and said that his artwork is complex which makes it hard for many to understand.

But what the "Bombman" and those who his personality affects seem to understand is that a special smile always seems to make a difference.

Student seeing stars



Adam Glass

by Tim Brooks
Strobe Staff

Adam Glass, a film major here at FSC, will be spending his summer of '93 in New York City working as a production assistant on a major motion pic-

ture production.

The film he will be working on is entitled "A New York Minute", a comedy about life in New York.

The director will be Daniel Adams, who already has two movies under his belt, "Religion Incorporated" and "Primary

Motive", starring Judd Nelson.

The stars of "A New York Minute" will be Armand Assante and Uma Thurman. In addition, there will be cameos by the legendary Bob Dylan and Oscar winner Jack Nicholson.

Production of the movie begins May 23 and should last about three months.

"When the director, Daniel Adams, called me up, he asked me what my interests were and I told him acting so he placed me on all the sets so I would get a chance to work close with all the actors," said Glass.

The movie was written with a writer for National Lampoon and should prove to be funny although somewhat offbeat.

"I'm really happy I'm getting the chance to have this experience," exclaimed Glass.

"Hopefully, I'm getting my foot in the door for future endeavors."

Habitat for Humanity project successful

On March 14, the months of planning reached the final stage for thirteen students of Fitchburg State College. The group of students involved in the FSC Habitat for Humanity chapter opted to skip the beaches and fun of Florida or the comfort of their own homes to travel to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to work with Habitat for Humanity in the Collegiate Challenge program.

The Georgia-based Habitat for Humanity builds houses around the world for low-income families who meet prescribed guidelines. Volunteer work crews construct the houses. Habitat requires the families to put in a pre-determined amount of "sweat hours" into their new home. The organization builds homes from ground to roof or renovates vacant home sites.

"The experience was extremely meaningful," said FSC senior Gina Buscaglia, a sociology major. "We met a lot of interesting people."

The Collegiate Challenge program involves over 3,000 college students from 174 campuses working in several cities and towns nationwide. The challenge, which took place during March, was an opportunity for college students to do "hands-on" home construction. Habitat felt the program would be more meaningful for students than other forms of involvement.

"It's a really good type of community effort. It gives you a real sense of accomplishment," said FSC junior Carol Hatch, who along with FSC student, Sherry Beland, organized the local student chapter.

The group wishes to extend thanks to the students, faculty, and



Thirteen students did some good during Spring Break building homes for the homeless. They are looking to recruit more people to join them next year.

administration personnel who helped the chapter raise the funds needed to support the effort. The FSC chapter members who par-

ticipated in this year's Collegiate Challenge were Lynn Ayers, Sherry Beland, Gina Buscaglia, Becky Cain, Katie Darst, Chris-

tine Dion, Mike Fratus, Frank Guinane, Carol Hatch, John Hunt, Rod Murphy, Marshall Myers and Kristen St. Jean.



Dancers perform at Weston during recent dance show.

Photo by Tim Brooks

Come away dancing; a Spirit shines

Tim Brooks
Strobe Staff

On April 6, 1993 the Dance Club and FSC dance classes presented their annual dance show at Weston Auditorium called "Dancer's Spirit... It All Begins With You."

The show started off with a dance called "Movement" performed by dance club officers Jen Bouchard, Kristen Dinan, Nikki Hey, Angeline Mistretta, Melissa Monahan and Michelle Waker. The dance was energetic and

pumped the crowd up for the rest of the show.

"Temptation", choreographed by Dance Aerobics Class and Caryl Sickul, was a mysterious and exotic dance that had an almost mystical scent. Temptation was followed by a solo by Jen Bouchard.

Then "Audition" came along. It was a skit about the life of a dancer with a touch of comedy. The skit, written and performed by Dan McDermott as well as other dancers, provided comedic relief as well as insight into dancing.

A real crowd pleaser was "Bad By Ourselves", performed by Delores Theolien and Sandra Cormier. The audience went crazy for this one and Theolien and Cormier really seemed to be into it. The dance was HipHop, Reggae and Jazz combined.

"Dreamgirls" was another big hit. Utilizing music from the Broadway musical, the dance was choreographed by Nikki Hey and the dance club Tap Class. The dancers performed a series of kicks and tapped their way to an outstanding applause.

Poet to read at FSC



James Barnes

by Michelle Boivin
Contributing writer

The internationally known poet James Barnes will give a poetry lecture reading on Monday, April 26 at 7:00 pm in the Ellis White Lecture Hall. He will also visit two writing classes to discuss his poetry.

Barnes, editor of the Chariton Review and college professor, has read his works throughout the United States, France, Germany, Italy, and Korea. In March, he received the Oklahoma Book Award for his most recent book of poems, *The Sawdust War*. He refers to himself as "an American poet who is proud of both his American Indian (Choctaw) blood and his Welsh ancestry."

Snorkin: Portrait of a less than average guy by Darren Hughes



THE STROBE

FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER

Founded 1940

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EYE on FSC

Do you think the registration process at FSC has improved?

Yes 94%

No 6%

Unsure 0%

100 people were asked this question at random on 4/16/93

On being yourself

by Tara Kerrigan
Staff writer

Why is it that so many people wrap themselves up with feelings of inadequacy? Society successfully brainwashes the public into a series of false truths and everyday life just seems more and more fake.

When I look at a person I naively think, "Oh, that is what she looks like." But who is to say that that is her real hair color or eye color. Does her hair naturally form those perfect little ringlets and was that gorgeous tan achieved from solar rays or from a large heated lamp?

I do not understand this way of thinking people develop. Is it so wrong to be who you are? Maybe if you were born with brown hair you are supposed to have brown hair. If you keep messing with Mother Nature, she could get mad.

Okay, I must confess that I am not totally innocent in this matter. I did have my hair permed twice when I was in the eighth grade, but I needed all the help I could get. Talk about going through an awkward stage! Then there was high school. The month was January and my answer to ridding the winter bleakness seemed simple and affordable. I decided to liven my dull dirty blonde hair by bringing out my highlights. My hair turned green. Yes, I went to a salon. My hairdresser justified her mistake by blaming it either on my shampoo or chlorine from a pool. Chlorine from a pool? Hello, it was January and my hair was green. I received support from my classmates as they insisted that "it wasn't a bad green."

So why aren't people happy with the way they look? Guys

aren't big enough so they take steroids to make themselves look inhuman. I mean muscle tone is good, but is it really necessary to be so muscular that you can't rest your own arms at your side.

I just think that it is truly sad that so many men and women are unsatisfied with their appearance. I know that appearance is important to a degree but must it become this haunting obsession that engulfs a person? There are too many other things to worry about in life than to be concerned about things we can't control. Remember the expression, "it's what's on the inside that counts."

When did it become law that having a bad hair day means having a bad day? It is not necessary to alter one's looks to feel and be a better person. Having a face lift is not going to change you as a person and wearing Lee Press on Nails won't give you more confidence. We must redirect our discontent in a productive manner.

Vital issues do not lie among perfect hair color, fashion frenzies, massive muscles, or one's loyalty to Weight Watchers. If it's bodacious breasts you do not possess, live with it. My days of praying have ended; God has other important matters to attend to. The day God decides that my lack of endowment is important, I will be ready; my order has been on hold since I was about 12.

Life is complicated enough without adding to the endless confusion. Please do not torture yourself with such foolish prattle. People have to learn to love themselves for who they are. Changing your appearance will not make you like yourself more. I hope people are not that superficial. Begin to search deeper when getting to know a person, especially yourself.

Letters to the Editor

The recent spending figures for the 1992 elections released by the Federal Elections Commission showed that spending for the House races has jumped 41% from 1990.

In order to raise the huge amount of money necessary to run for office, most congressional candidates must turn to special interest Political Action Committees (PAC's) and wealthy individuals to bankroll their campaigns. PAC's contributed over \$160 million to congressional candidates in 1992. Can we really expect Congress to prevent environmental degradation, protect consumers, or stop special interest giveaways like the savings and loan debacle

when their campaigns are being funded by the special interests that profit from these abuses?

President Clinton has spoken out for the need to reform the elections process. He said he would support even stronger reforms than the campaign finance bill passed last year by Congress and vetoed by President Bush. If he is serious about cleaning up Congress, President Clinton should act now and make campaign finance reform a top priority.

An even stronger campaign reform package should include:

A. Limits on overall campaign spending to help create a level playing field for candidates.

B. Significant public resources, such as matching grants

and low cost mailings and TV, to replace special interest money with untainted alternative resources.

C. Reductions on contribution limits for individuals and PAC's by at least 75%.

D. A ban on soft money loopholes that allow wealthy individuals to circumvent the contribution limits.

President Clinton campaigned on the need for a revolution in government. Now it's time for him to lead that revolution by immediately presenting Congress with a comprehensive campaign finance reform package tougher than the one vetoed last year.

Signed,
Christine Dion, Kristen St. Jean

Dear Editor,

In September of last year I joined your organization in the hopes of meeting new friends and learning more about the newspaper business. As my education is almost complete here at Fitchburg State College, I want to thank you for a wonderful time.

I joined as a production assistant, even though I have no graphic experience, because I thought my knowledge of computers could help with the layout of the paper. I don't know if it did help, but the knowledge that I ac-

quired from working with the production staff has been a very valuable experience. Also I found the communication experience between management and staff to be a lot better than other volunteer organizations that I joined outside the college community.

The people that work for the Strobe are very pleasant. They are very serious about work and know when to mix business with pleasure. In the end, the work they do is reflected by the look of the paper. Many readers don't know how much work that goes into put-

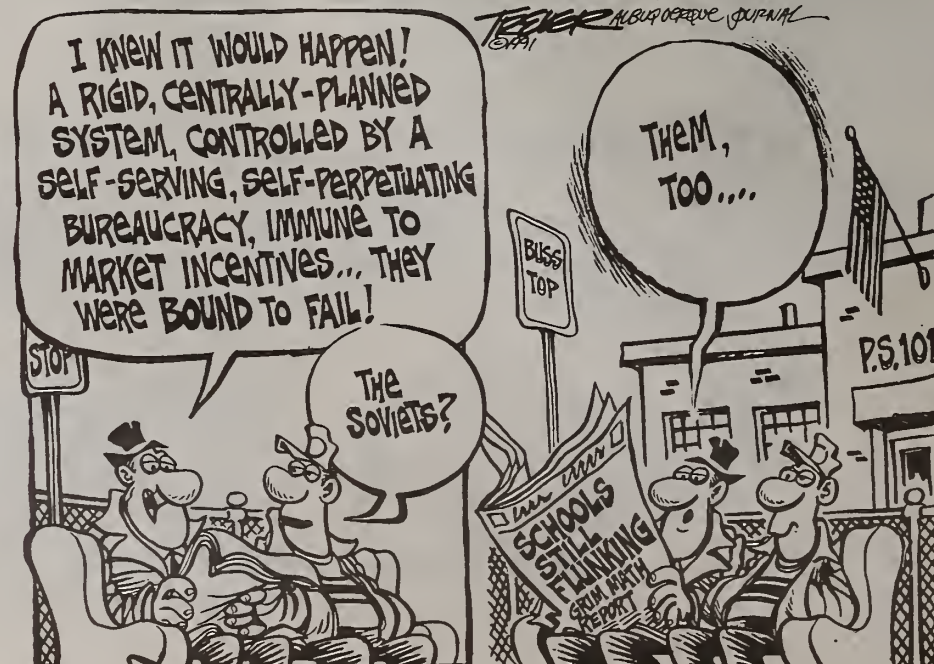
ting this paper out, how many late nights that we had to stay up just to get the paper out by the morning deadline? It was all in good fun nevertheless.

I am not a very open person, as I don't talk much around a lot of people, however the Strobe has shown to me a feeling of warmth and friendliness. There's something about the Strobe that makes it different from any other organization, what it is can't be described in words. All I can say is thanks for the memories.

Christopher Ryan

Those who do not wish to integrate experience with the heart's desire are emotionally sterile. Those who think they can are fools.

- J.V. Cunningham



Distributed by Tribune Media Services

A prescription for Chelsea from Boston

by Sean McShane
Contributing writer

Chelsea was once a multi-million dollar city, particularly during World War II and the decade to follow. It had huge junkyards which the federal government used in its support of its war effort. Also, in Chelsea was the Chelsea Clock factory. The clocks were some of the most accurate clocks in the world.

The turnaround came in the years following the tragic Chelsea fire. The fire burned over 3 city blocks of houses and businesses. Since then, things have gone down hill. With no jobs to offer the community, Chelsea has suffered a major loss in its tax base, which has devastated its public services.

Of particular importance is its awful school system. Chelsea simply doesn't have the funds to support such a large project such as schooling. Boston University has taken control of the school system in hopes of rectifying it.

But this just isn't good enough. I think it's time for the city of Boston to annex Chelsea. About a year ago this idea surfaced in the mass media.

If you were to drive through Chelsea you can see several large plots of unoccupied land. What Boston should do is provide tax breaks and low interest loans to encourage new businesses to occupy the wasted land. This could help create thousands of jobs for this unemployment-ridden city.

The added jobs can also help an ailing retailing industry in Chelsea. Chelsea already has a good sized mall, but the place is a ghost town, even during the Christmas season.

Chelsea should also be annexed by Boston to save it from increasing crime rates. Chelsea has had to make severe cuts in its police and fire departments. This has not only created a loss of jobs, but also a loss of many lives. There are just not enough firemen on the scene to not only battle the blaze, but to rescue people as well.

I believe that before things get any worse, the city of Boston must take Chelsea under its wing. It's obvious that Chelsea can no longer survive on its own.

Once annexed, Boston should return to basics to save Chelsea from its doldrums. Political ideologies such as enterprise zoning, gentrification, and an overall change in its image is much needed to save this once thriving community.

This Week in South Africa



Compiled by Rob Haneisen
Strobe staff

A multi-party negotiation forum ended its scheduled two-day meeting at the World Trade Center, Kempton Park, in one day yesterday on a note of optimism. Discussions would now turn to addressing differences on constitu-

tional matters and compromises, but the issue of violence should be addressed. "There is no way that negotiations can flourish under the current climate of violence in the country," said the Minister of Constitutional Development.

ANC president Nelson Mandela will meet with British Prime Minister John Major for talks on May 5. The trip was scheduled earlier in the year but had to be canceled due to illness. During his visit, Mandela is scheduled to address a joint sitting of Britain's Parliament.

Violence, some of it believed to be politically linked, claimed at least 12 lives in several Natal townships and rural settlements over the weekend of April 1. In what was described as a faction fight by police, five people were killed at Mchomnyama near Port Shepstone.

The crisis in education deep-

ened when talks between the National Education Conference and new Education Coordinating Minister Piet Marais deadlocked over solutions to problems in black schools. The talks coincided with the launch of the government's new administration designed to streamline the 14 educational departments into a single non-racial education ministry.

The South African Council on Sports (SACOS) will oppose all attempts to host the Olympic games in South Africa. The announcement came in conjunction amidst attempts by the National Olympic Committee and major business corporations to stage the games in South Africa in 2004. SACOS resolved that it will oppose these attempts "as long as South African society remains abnormal as it is contrary to the spirit of the Olympics and an affront to the majority of the oppressed."



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Wild Kingdom


By Anthony Rubino, Jr.

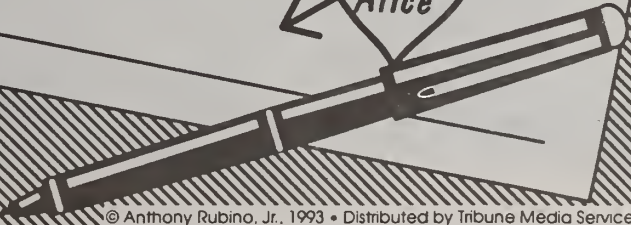
Mike Brady • Architect

Alice my Love:

Greg, Peter, Bobby, Marcia, Jan, Cindy, and Carol don't suspect a thing. I've rigged the brakes to make it look like an accident. Soon, my blue-haired vixen, we will be together at last!

Mike





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Professor Dobrian displays art

by Jason Koivu
Contributing writer

The art of Professor Amy Dobrian is in the same instance decadent and alive with fiery emotion. Interwoven throughout is the theme of memory and how it's molded by the passing of time.

Dobrian is an Assistant Professor of Arts in the Humanities Department here at Fitchburg State College. Her work from 1989 to 1990, entitled "Perseverance", is on display at the Fitchburg Savings Bank on John Fitch Highway through the month of April.

"Perseverance" is overshadowed by abstract landscapes and images of trees. "I used trees as a symbol of passage of time," explained Dobrian. "The tree is repre-

sentative of life, death, and rebirth, which comes about through its own generation during life. It is in the course of these stages that memories are made and built upon through relationships between thought and event, and physical and emotional reality as they affect our perception of time inside and outside of our own sensory experience."

Through the use of the etching technique of aquatint and lithography, Dobrian is able to bring out the edginess that our memories sometimes hold. The techniques used require a layering of colors which as she puts it could be seen as "layers of time, symbolic of past, present, future, change and permanence."

To the non-artist the technique appears flawless. In turn, the prod-

uct itself seems emotionally unsettled. "They're very gripping," mentioned one of the bank employees, while another called them "attention getters."

The prints come to life with base colors, dark and light shadings, and stirring, brilliant flashes of color. In some instances these color streaks jut out from nowhere, envelope all in their path and proceed along their journey as if nothing had happened. Other massive forms push their way into the forefront demanding notice. Together these images combine to bring about feelings of hazy remembrances.

Viewing Dobrian's work is a memorable experience, and while on display at such a convenient location, seeing the exhibit is highly recommended.

"Jack the Bear"

A tough but worthwhile view

by Shawn Sullivan
Staff writer

"Jack the Bear"
rated PG13: profanity, mild violence, adult situations
starring: Danny DeVito
*** (out of four)

With its fierce and mean spirited growl, "Jack the Bear" can hold claim as being the first movie to literally upset my stomach.

Hibernating within this well written and superbly acted motion picture are a few scenes of hope and happiness, but only occasionally do they dare peek out from inside this story's cold and often pessimistic tone. As an unsettling and morbid depiction of the horrors in life, it tries to pull at your heart strings, but winds up clawing at them with a brute, uncompromising force.

Danny DeVito turns in one of his most defining performances as John Leary, a widower who is raising his two young boys after his wife dies in a car accident. The year is 1972, and John is the dark hu-

mored host of a late night horror movie show. He is a fun loving person, but the recent death of his wife has dragged him into a battle against alcoholism and irresponsibility. Often stepping into the role of parent and taking care of three year old Dylan, is his preadolescent son, Jack, who is overwhelmed with guilt and regret over his mother's tragedy. The story of the Learys is told through the disillusioned eyes of Jack, and it is a tale of how a family will eventually begin to heal after coming to terms with its sorrow and trauma.

Unlike 1991's "My Girl", a wonderful drama about a thoughtful little girl learning about death, "Jack the Bear" doesn't strive to be heartwarming and gentle. It is a cold, mean film filled with ugly twists on the usual conventions used in movies of this caliber.

For instance: In the majority of stories involving children growing up in a neighborhood, there is often a mysterious adult who never speaks to others, and is usually regarded as a vicious sociopath, but

in truth is a harmless, shy person. There is a mysterious man nicknamed Zombie in this film, but he is far from being a kind human being. As the movie develops we learn with sickening unease that this man is pure evil. He is the dangerous embodiment of everything that parents have to fear for their defenseless children.

There is a disquieting presence of pain and heartache in this film. In the course of two hours, all of life's trials are examined with harsh honesty. Issues such as child abuse, rejection, and death are observed here with equal attention given to alcoholism, prejudice, and kidnapping. An accurate picture has been painted here; this is not a pleasant moviegoing experience. Not all nights out at the movies have to be. Fear, confusion, and anger may consume all of the characters, but their desperate cry for help and desire for love and happiness make this story an important and worthwhile one. "Jack the Bear" will involve you deeply, but at a tremendous emotional expense.

Thank you to Loew's Theater in Leominster



FSC students performing in The Misanthrope acted out a scene in G-Lobby to the delight of all passersby.

Photo by Eric Metzner

'Fear': no loathing

By Danielle Sullivan
Strobe staff

"Fear", a horror suspense novel by L. Ron Hubbard, has recently been released by Bridge Publications, although it had been written more than fifty years ago by the now deceased bestselling author.

The tale is of James Lowry, a respected professor at a prestigious university. Lowry didn't believe in spirits, demons or ghosts, and after researching past civilizations, wrote an article on the need for people to "make up" such beings in order to have something to believe in. A few weeks after the publication of the article, however, something happens to Lowry...He loses his hat, and with it, four hours of his life are gone.

From here on, Lowry has no choice but to believe in spirits and demons, particularly one who follows him whispering, "If you find your hat, you'll find your four hours. If you find your four hours you will die." "The book takes you on periodic walks through hell, and into the love triangle of Lowry, his wife and best friend.

"Fear" is full of over done description and the typical cliches of horror novels, but taking into account the age in which it was written, these discrepancies can be excused. The novel holds up well in this decade, though not as well as it would have were it circulated in the 1940s. Hubbard's style is to not to scare with monsters and gore but to expose turmoil in the human psyche and show what results can arise.

What makes up for all the throwbacks of "Fear" is the incredible plot twist at the end of the novel. You have to read it over again to believe what is happening. This twist gives the whole book a new perspective and we envision Lowry in a whole new light.

"Fear" is recommended wholly for this plot twist, which can't be revealed lest the book be spoiled for the reader. But be prepared to lumber through excessive amounts of description, philosophy and unrealistic, extravagant conversations between characters before you reach the climax.

Sugar betters with Beaster

by Rob Haneisen
Strobe staff

Bob Mould and company have returned to produce the second offering from Sugar. The six song EP, Beaster, rumored to be leaning more towards the harder and darker essence of Mould, is a powerful mixture of intelligent lyrics and raw, blistering music.

Sugar, still enjoying the success of its first album, Copper Blue, which struck a favorable note in the mainstream alternative audience, seems to have turned things up a notch in this mini-offering. Beaster goes where the pop oriented Copper Blue would never dare venture.

Beaster is an obvious showcase for the brilliance of guitarist and vocalist Mould. Mould wrote all six songs which he claimed, "Nobody would probably like," in an interview on MTV's Alternative Nation. This is far from the truth.

The set of songs is arranged like a sandwich. The first and last songs are more like mood enhancers. The first song, "Come Around", is an undulating instrumental that caresses the listener before being assaulted by the middle portion of the EP. The last song, "Walking Away", is a chanting, meditative, peaceful

song which allows the listener to once again set their feet back on firm ground.

The four songs which make up the meat of Beaster are about self-persecution, imbalance, and eventually redemption and resurrection. The first line of the song "Tilted" seems to prepare the listener for the journey of this EP by saying, "I only do these things to freak you out." The song sounds like a schizophrenic trying to explain communication in a relationship. The song is frantic in its attempt to personify imbalance.

The next two songs, "Judas Cradle" and "JC Auto" show how people betray themselves and are usually the source of their own suffering of Jesus Christ on the cross. Realization is evident in the lines, "I became the big disgrace/I know that I'm the ugly face/I need some time to reconcile/I need some time to heal a while."

The song "Feeling Better" closes this episode of psychosis with a renewal of strength that seems to say that sometimes life is tough, but it is always better to stay strong and weather the storm.

In addition to the blunt emotion expressed in the lyrics, the music present is nothing short of bombastic and powerful. Sugar has surpassed its previous achievement in Copper Blue, producing an EP that I highly recommend.

Next week in A&E:

Reviews of Localpalooza '93 and The Misanthrope

Da Paper Source

by Joey B.
Staff writer

Last week I attended the Pepsi Boston Music Awards and it was a musical education to say the least. All of the top Boston acts in every musical genre were there.

The packed Wang Center saw Bobby Brown win two awards, including one for male vocalist. BBD, Bobby's friends in phunk also won awards for best R+B single, "Gangsta". Aerosmith, the rockers that have been captivating audiences for decades with their hard edge rock, are back. Their new album, Get a Grip, is set to come out soon with a world tour to follow. There was no better place to start it all than the Music Awards. Aerosmith won Outstanding Rock Band for the seventh year in a row, or to put it another way, every year since the award has been presented.

Marky Mark, the man of so much controversy these days, did not attend this year. However, the rest of the funky bunch was there to pick up the award for Best Rap Act on Major Label. Other big winners that night were Extreme, Chucklehead and the Mighty Mighty Bosstones.

Congratulations to Lisa Lee for winning Best Local Rap Act. I've known her for a while and she worked real hard to get where she is. Best wishes, Lisa, and I know it won't stop there.

The after party at Zanzibar was almost as good as the award show as four bands performed, including Funk Band award winner Chucklehead. Chucklehead ripped a set of originals and then invited all the rappers in the house to do a Freestyle Frenzy! It was the funkiest thing I've seen in a long time. Posse NFX, Stud B and Local Rap Nominee Da Rock slammed on the mic with the phat lyrics.

I don't know how the Seventh Boston Music Awards can be topped, but I can't wait to see how they try next year.

On the club side, a new club opened up in Lowell called Club Oddysey. It is going to be for the real club head. Mass Pool DJ's Neal Petrocone and Lenny Bertoldo are going to spin the phattest Hip Hop, House, Techno, and Reggae. It's on Merrimack Street in Lowell so check it out. Ya know I'll be there.

Well, I'm gonna break. Here's the phunky phat Top Ten Jams just as ya like em.
Peace!

Shout outs to: Omni Potent, Will G., Simon J.B. (Congrats!), Danny Harvey, Slim Whitman, Barry Manilow and Brandon Lee (Rest in Peace).

Da Paper Source Top Ten

1. Run DMC (Down with the King)
2. LL Cool J (How I'm Coming)
3. Trends of Culture (Off and On)
4. LOTUG (Lord's Prayer)
5. Boss (Deeper)
6. Pete Rock and CL (It's Not a Game)
7. Showbiz and AG (Pay Day)
8. Brand Nubian (Love Me or Leave Me Alone)
9. BDP (Black Cop)
10. MAD KAP (Whole Kit and Kaboodle)



These Kemelions need to change to invisible.

Kemelions need to make changes

by Matt Wright
Contributing writer

I have five words for the new rap duo Kemelions, "Don't quit your day jobs."

Originally from Long Island, New York, MC Poeplan and DJ Kinese put their skills to the test with their debut album Basement Arrangements. The grade for this

test, however, is a generous D+.

The Kemelions show promise in a few of their songs, but really never establish a style that is worth listening to. Out of the eleven tracks on the album only two songs give insight into the potential of this new duo. "Nervous Rek" showcases Kinese's tuff DJ skills and Poeplan gives us a brief look into the old-school style rap that he was influenced by. "Peek-A-PT II", a slow

smooth love song, is the other notable tune.

Most of the other tracks on the album are very weak due to the fact that the songs contain too much dialogue. Although the dialogue stresses important issues such as education and the importance of family, one wonders if it is there to make up for the lack of creative song writing. They just don't have what it takes.

FSC bands honor Montachusett Area Volunteers with a bang

by Kelli Botta
Contributing writer

Proud parents filled Weston Auditorium last week for an evening of dramatic and upbeat music. The Fitchburg State College Band and Jazz Ensemble presented a concert on April 7 to honor Montachusett Area Volunteers.

The ninth annual concert, directed by Dr. Frank Patterson, started with the FSC Concert band performing a wide variety

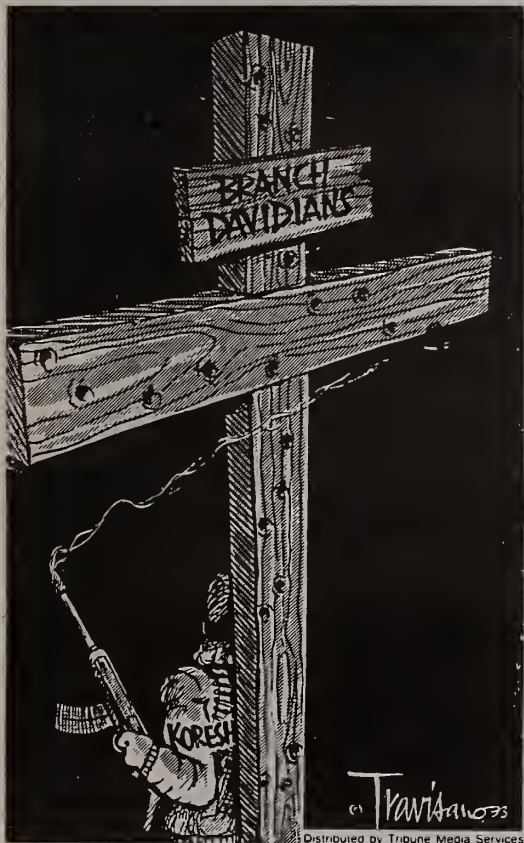
of musical compositions. They opened the program with the stirring march "His Honor" by the American composer Henry Fillmore. Robert Healy, 1967 FSC alumnus, then led the band in the hand-clapping "The Saints' Hallelujah".

The concert also included favorites by Andrew Lloyd Weber and film scores by John Williams.

The Jazz Ensemble followed and played big band jazz that elicited cheers from the audience. Vocalist Rene Bergeron per-

formed the title track off "Beauty and the Beast", and Linda Ferrigno made her singing debut with the song, "Love Takes Time".

"The council of Directors of Volunteer services gives so much to our community," stated Professor Patterson. "It is a joy for us to return a little musical gift to them." A few council agencies include the American Red Cross, Fitchburg Senior Center and the Massachusetts Association for the Blind.



TOM the DANCING BUG PRESENTS

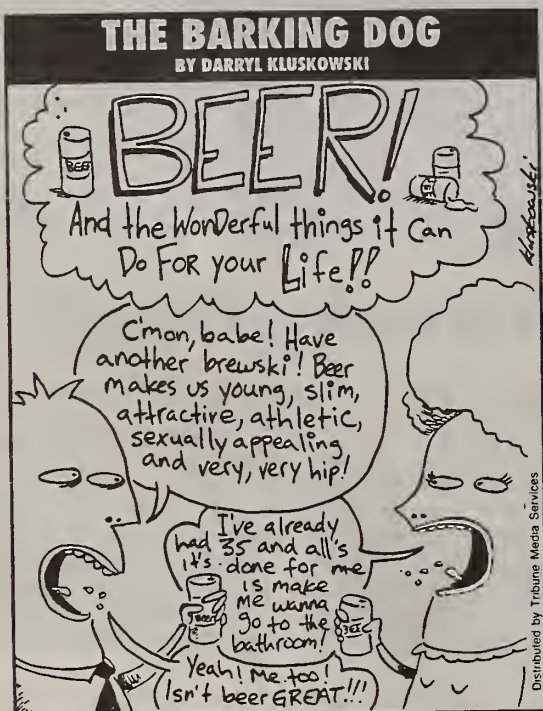
MAX the terrible infant, and DOUG the cartoon character in THE BATY BROADCASTERS ©1991 Ruben Bolling



Announcements

The FSC Women's Track & Field Team is hosting the invitationals April 25 and the N.E. Division 3 Championships May 7-8. Anyone interested in volunteering for managerial duties please contact Coach Jim Jellison, athletic office.

Calling all musicians! We are looking to start up the Falcon Pep Band next fall and we need you. If you have any curiosity at all about the Pep Band, we would like to hear from you. The band would play at FSC football games next fall, plus other events as they see fit. It promises to be a lot of fun, plus will bring added enjoyment to the games. Please contact Dave Marsh in the Athletic Office if you are interested.



PERSONALS

J+G,
The starships reflector shield is becoming quite operational, my friends.

-K

Eric,
Please put these personals in for me.
Jen

To my sister,
I had a mighty mighty good time.
Jen

Cheryl,
3 years, Cape Cod + New Orleans are too much to let go of.

Love, Jen

Katie-
Do you want to go Friday night? Are you sure?
Mark

Tara-
Do you have an Etch-a-Sketch?

Hello Cleveland-
Does anyone know where I can play basketball for 550 clams?

- Your waiter

Jeanie-Pam-
What ever happened to Claus?

Dan B. - Love those calves.

One student passed by and said, "Why'd they do it."

Johanna-
Thanks for a great time last Wednesday at Slats.
Homeboy

Mark-
To the Town Spa. It's time for a midnight (or ten o'clock) run. Wing dings. Save me a dance at the Senior Ball.

K

Mark,
Thanks for your friendship!
M

Dan McDermott-
Congratulations on the play. Relax now. You deserve it.

Kristi,

Marshall

BoBo-
The laser show special this weekend. Watch for it! You know

PAL-
Happy Birthday!! Twenty two shots-tonight! -E

Fozzy,
I think it's time we come clean. What d'ya say?
MD

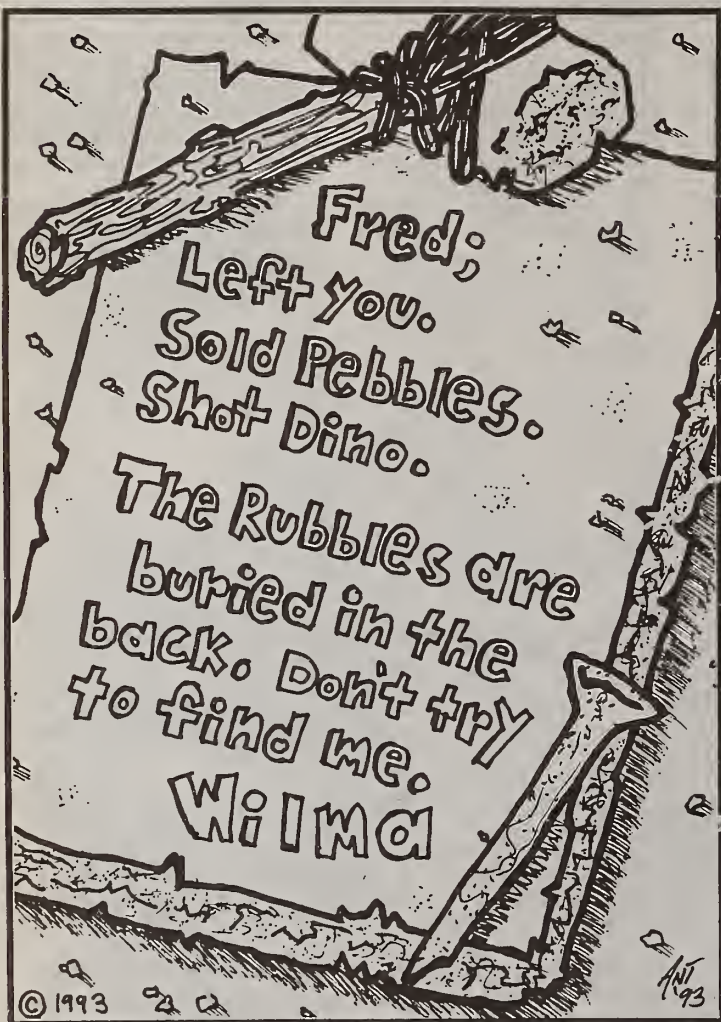
Andy-
Don't worry about Blubber boy. You're twice the man he is!
Ha Ha!

Chuck-
Hi to you too!
Mal

Wild Kingdom

Distributed by Tribune Media Services

By Anthony Rubino, Jr.



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Da Hoop Source

by Phil D.
Staff writer

CELTIC STATUS

McHale Questions his value to Celtics system

He was the greatest low post player of the 80s and arguably the best of all-time. He was nicknamed "the black hole" because if the ball went to him, it was not coming back. It was a guaranteed two points every time the ball touched his hands.

Now, Kevin McHale has seen the immortal Alaa Abdul-Razek start over him. His career reached an all-time low during the Celtics' past loss to the New York Knicks. McHale played a total of eight minutes. He was forced to sit and watch his teammates fall apart in the second half.

Following the game, McHale spouted off to the media about his limited playing time and questioned where he now stood in the Celtics system.

McHale's role has diminished over the last few seasons. The Celtics have tried to build a running team leaving McHale and his half-court game out to dry. McHale, in possibly his last season, is not going out the way he should. The future Hall of Famer is sitting the pine.

THE PLAYOFF SCENE

IN THE EAST:

Knicks and Ewing look towards the title

The Knicks clinched the Atlantic Division in all places, our hallowed Boston Garden. The Celtics' dominance at home against the Knicks has vanished. New York has the depth, the best coach and Patrick Ewing is focused on the NBA title. This all adds up to an Eastern Conference showdown against 'da Bulls.

The Chicago Bulls are shooting for their third straight NBA Championship. Scottie Pippen has played more games (last years playoffs, Olympics and regular season) than any other player over the last year. And it has taken its toll on the six foot eight inch super-swingman. For this reason, the New York Knicks will emerge from the East.

TO THE WEST:

Suns Rising In The West

The Phoenix Suns have been the talk of the NBA since they acquired the brazen Charles Barkley. Along with signing Sir Charles, the Suns' brass signed veteran sharp shooter Danny Ainge. Rookie Richard Dumars has fought back from substance problems to become an important part of the Suns' success. Dumars has started most of the season and is likely to be selected to the all-rookie team. Bottom line...The Suns rise from the West to meet the Knicks in the East.

BARKLEY VERSUS EWING

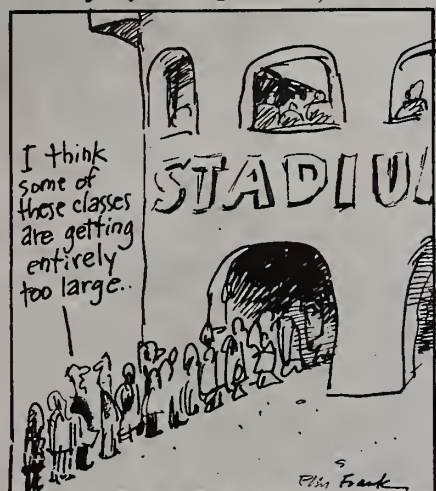
The one thing they want most has eluded them both during their entire careers... an NBA title. Ewing and his thugs prevail in seven games, but Barkley's efforts will be salvaged by winning his first Most Valuable Player Award.

LISTEN UP

Tune into the SPORTS FORUM every Sunday at 8 pm 'til 10 pm on FSC College Radio 91.3 WXPL...

Frankly Speaking

by Phil Frank



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CRAFTY'S CORNER

Bruins and Sox battle books for precedence

by Stephen B. Crafts
Strobe staff

Well, here we are, only a few weeks away from the end of the semester. It is time to buckle down, prepare for finals and try to end out the school year on a positive note. Isn't it?

I guess in theory it is, but how am I supposed to concentrate on my studies while all this action is going on around me? Seriously, how can I possibly be expected to study for my economics test tomorrow when the Rocket Roger

Clemens tries to nail down the sweep of the Cleveland Indians tonight?

Looking down the road, I see finals week. Doesn't the educators of this school realize it falls right in the heart of the NHL playoffs? The B's are the second hottest team in the league and quite possibly the only chance of someone knocking off Super Mario and the defending World Champions.

Right now there are simply too many things more important than my reading and 'rhythmic. I must learn if our Sox are for real and if

the B's can do it. I ask you, doesn't that sound a whole lot more important than adolescent psychology or calculus? Not to mention a heck of a lot more interesting.

My plea goes out to all ye professors and educators. Let's sum it all up and call it a year. What is the few extra chapters going to do for us anyway?

My advice to all of the students out there is to close that marketing book, put down that chemistry lab and tune in to the great action of the current Boston sports scene. You will just end up forgetting all those formulas and definitions anyway.

Track teams sprinting to victory



Jessica Jones displays her first place form at a recent track meet.

Photo by Tim Brooks

Tim Brooks
Strobe Staff

The Fitchburg State College Women's Track team had a successful showing at a five team meet held on April 14 here at Fitchburg State.

The highlights of the day were first and second place finishes by FSC tracksters in both the 800 meters and the high jump. Tina Rouine and Coreen White took the top two spots in the 800 meter race with times of 2:27 and 2:32 respectively. In the high jump Jes-

sica Jones won with a jump of 5'1" and Ginger Boormeester took second with a 4'10" jump.

Others winning events for FSC were Maritza Knight in the 400 meters and Diane Tower in the hammer throw. Tower also picked up third place in the discus and the javelin.

Also producing for the team was Coann White placing in both the 400 and 100 hurdle events.

Melissa Lombard placed in the 400 meters, Ann Aristegui placed in the javelin and Wendy Gagliani placed in the long jump

as well.

In men's track, the Northeastern University Husky Invitational Meet on April 10 had some good showings by FSC.

In the pole vault Fred Vasquez and Scott McCabe took the silver and bronze with vaults of 13' and 12'9".

In the triple jump, Jason Desmarais finished fourth with a leap of 38'6". Right behind him was Brandon Auger with 38'3".

Derek Valcourt finished up fourth in the 400 hurdles and fifth in the 110 high hurdles.

This week in sports history

4/19/93: Quote of the day... Basketball great JERRY WEST on why he spent only a brief time as a coach. "It's the worst job in the world. It's like being a traffic cop at an airport."

4/20/81: In Boston, ALLISON ROE of New Zealand runs the marathon in 2 hours 26 minutes 46 seconds, breaking the three-week-old record set by JOYCE SMITH of Great Britain.

4/21/51: BOB DAVIES' two free throws with 40 seconds left and JACK COLEMAN'S lay-up give the Rochester Royals a 79-75 victory over the New York Knicks and an NBA title in the league's first seven-game finals.

4/22/69: Champion JOE FRAZIER knocks out DAVE ZYGLEWICZ in 1:36 of the first round, ending the quickest heavyweight title fight since 1908.

4/23/36: Fireballing 18-year-old BOB FELLER makes his debut for the Cleveland Indians, beating the St. Louis Browns 4-1 on a six-hitter and striking out 15 batters, just one below RUBE WADDELL'S American League record and two below DIZZY DEAN'S major league record.

4/24/89: JIM ABBOTT, the California Angels' rookie pitcher who was born with only one hand, wins his first major league game in his third start, beating the Baltimore Orioles 3-2 in Anaheim. He goes six innings, yielding two runs on four hits, walking three and striking out one.

4/25/74: The NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE adopts a 15-minute sudden-death overtime during the regular season. Games still deadlocked after this extra period will end in a tie.

Bruins clinch Adams Division title

by Michael Gordon
Strobe staff

In a sold-out Montreal Forum, about a thousand of those in attendance were the Bruins faithful donning the black and gold. And you know what? They were louder than the rest of the building. No suits and ties here, thank you.

As I sat there, listening to "O' Canada", knowing that first place in the Adams Division was on the line, I could only think of the awakening sleeping giant. This giant was the Montreal Canadians.

The feeling did not change, until about the thirteen minute mark of

play. He skated between the circles, picked-up the loose puck, spun and slapped it through the five-hole. Neely had scored his ninth goal of the season. And when Cam scores, you can not help but think of championships.

The B's would never look back. Teddy Donato showed the poise of a seven year veteran by dilly-dallying patiently in front of the net and snapping the puck past a sprawling Patrick Roy. Dave Poulin later added to the lead with a breakaway goal on a beautiful shorthanded play. The thrashing was on.

The days of 2-1 and 3-2 finals are gone. Boston is blowing teams out now. Can you believe it! The

Bruins actually have some talent. As a matter of fact, I cannot remember the last time one of our beloved Boston goons won a fight, let alone a decisive victory.

The Bruins came out sluggish in the second, but appeared to be in full command. With neither team taking control of the neutral zone, the boys played a nice little game of tennis, much to Boston's pleasure who had a 3-0 lead.

And when the Habs did get some great opportunities to put the scorekeeper to work, Moog was the one punching in some overtime. Andy stoned the flying Frenchmen on several occasions.

Boston once again had the great

team defense. The forwards were coming back to the zone, and picking up the loose pucks left by Canadians, who were quickly being taken out of the play by a mobile defensive corps.

Meanwhile, about 700 miles southwest of the Garden, the Penguins are also sticking it to the rest of the National Hockey League. Pittsburgh notched a record breaking sixteenth straight win in a dramatic, five goal Mario Lemieux performance.

What I cannot understand is why do the hockey gods hate Boston so much? Every time we have a Stanley Cup type team there is somebody else who cannot seem to

be beat by anybody. We all remember the Edmonton years?

I know the Bruins skate in a barn, but we are not animals anymore. Boston is a complete hockey team. Just let the B's win one more before the Mausoleum comes tumbling down.

Not a fan headed for the Greyhounds early as Boston got their money's worth by having the pleasure of chanting the notorious, "na-na-na" in celebration of clinching the final Adams Division title and home-ice advantage. CHING-CHING!

Bring on the Sabres, baby!

.....

The Red Sox playing real ball at last

by Dave Querzoli
Strobe staff

6-2. Gas up that wagon and tune up the band; we are riding this bandwagon into October.

Let me be the first to call shot gun, I am ready to take my seat and assume my position as a Boston sports fan and admitted "bandwagoner". The Sox are hot and are playing tough ball...but, please don't tell them. Or you are sure to jinx 'em.

Vaughn and Cooper are stating their claim as mainstays in Hobson's line-up card and Gorman's payroll. Viola is tuning

up his left-wing for a twenty win season. Scottie Fletcher has brought back the scrappy style that we once had in Burlison and Petrocelli. Greenie is even carrying his load, this time with his bat, instead of his mouth. And Roger Clemens, Fenway's patron saint of strikeouts, is victorious in his first two appearances. For once, everyone is soaring along with the Rocket. Yes, they are 6-2, but keep quiet or they will catch on.

Let us not disturb their fun. You know that they are playing over their heads, I know they are playing over their heads, but do they... Nah! This is the best start that our beloved Sox have notched in 38

years. Two weeks ago no one was predicting this.

Never would we have predicted Mo's bat to boom. Never were we as sure of Boggs' departure. Never did we see the confidence in our number one lefty, Frankie V. Scottie who? Greenwell shut up and leave the talking to McDonough...Never!

"Oh, the only game they will win is when the Rocket is on the mound." We were wrong and am I ever happy to admit it. The Sox are hot and playing tough ball...but, please don't tell them.

We as Sox fans must realize this team's capabilities. Half of our infield has yet to see their tenth high school reunion. Our outfield is

labeled injury permitting and is anchored by a 38 year-old veteran with a bionic knee. Our designated hitter manages chickens in cock fights during the off-season and our left fielder hunts alligators. We may not have overpowering talent, but do we ever have character. And character might just lead us into October.

It is the character that keeps a team fresh. It is the character that creates a Cinderella story. The 1975 Sox had Bernie Carbo and his pet Monkey, heavy eater/ hitter George "Boomer" Scott at first base, a catcher named Pudge, El Tiante with his ballerina wind-up and a lefty named Bill "Spaceman"

Lee. Need we say more.

In 1975, the Sox were in the Series...boy, what a series! In 1975, baseball in Boston was fun. In 1975, the Sox had an identity which sparked a will to win. In 1993, once again we have compiled a team of kids, nobodies, has-beens, and even superstars... a team with something to prove, a team that is willing to put their character on the line and hunt down a pennant. This is a team that is capable of playing over their heads and open the eyes of the baseball gods.

The Sox are hot and are playing tough ball...but, please don't tell them...Or you are sure to jinx 'em.

SPORTS QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Is Sox-mania sweeping FSC?



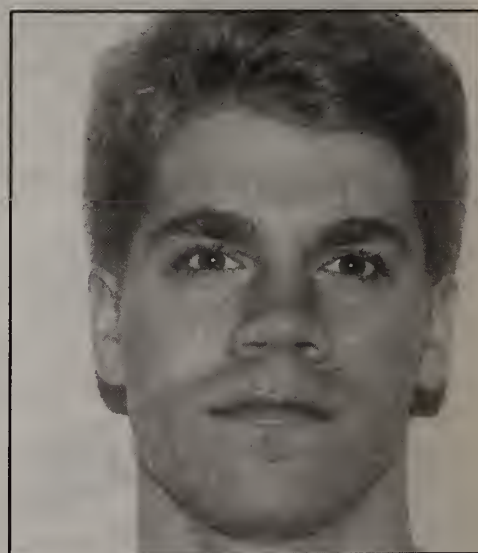
Pete Lupien
Class of 96

Yes, what's the BIG deal about beating Cleveland anyway?



J. Thomas
Class of 96

I think they don't have a chance, so who cares.



Matt Collins
Class of 95

Yes, I've seen more Sox hats around FSC in the past month than the past two years combined!